AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method for producing L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine, which comprises culturing an *Escherichia* bacterium, which is L-isoleucine auxotrophic and has ability to produce L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine, in a medium containing L-isoleucine, to produce and accumulate L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine in a culture and collecting L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine from the culture.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium is deficient in any of L-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme activities.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium is deficient in threonine deaminase activity.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.

9. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein said collecting L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine from the culture is performed by an ion exchange resin method, precipitation method or combination thereof.

10. (New) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said collecting L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine from the culture is performed by an ion exchange resin method, precipitation method or combination thereof.

11. (New) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said collecting L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine from the culture is performed by an ion exchange resin method, precipitation method or combination thereof.

12. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said collecting L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine from the culture is performed by an ion exchange resin method, precipitation method or combination thereof.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-4 were previously canceled.

Claims 9-12 have been added.

New Claims 9-12 are supported by page 10, lines 18-21.

No new matter is believed to have been entered by the present amendments.